

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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R 111945 Z MAY 73
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4176
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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AMCONSUL RECIFE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PINT, BR
SUBJECT: O ESTADO' S STORY ON RESIGNATION OF CIRNE LIMA

1. IN SAO PAULO, CENSORS INSTRUCTED ALL MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA THAT CIRNE LIMA' S LETTER OF RESIGNATION COULD BE PUBLISHED BUT WITHOUT COMMENT. THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY ALL MEDIA EXCEPT, OF COURSE, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. O ESTADO EDITORS BATTLED WITH CENSORS UNTIL 3 A. M. THURSDAY MORNING MAY 10 OVER THEIR REPORTING OF THE CIRNE LIMA STORY BEFORE CAPITULATING.

2. O ESTADO' S EDITION OF MAY 10 CARRIED ONLY THE LETTER AND EXTRANEIOUS MATERIAL ALERTING READERS TO THE CENSORSHIP. THE CENSORSHIP OF O ESTADO WAS STRICTER THAN THAT IMPOSED AGAINST OTHER PAPERS. IT WAS NOT ALLOWED EVEN TO STATE THAT CIRNE LIMA HAD RESIGNED OR PUBLISH A PICTURE OF HIM LEAVING THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. CONSEQUENTLY, ITS BANNER HEADLINE ON THE FRONT PAGE ANNOUNCED ONLY THAT " MEDICI NAMES A NEW MINISTER". UNDER THE HEADLINE, IN PLACE OF A PICTURE, WAS AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR A RADIO PROGRAM " NOW THE DANCE" (AGORA E SAMBA). THE AD WAS PLAINLY INTENDED AS THE ESTADO' S COMMENT THAT LIMA' S RESIGNATION

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HAD FINALLY BROKEN OPEN THE SERIOUS DIVISIONS WITHIN THE SYSTEM OVER THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICIES.

3. IN ALL, 12 STORIES AND A CARTOON WERE CENSORED FROM THE O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. THE MANAGING EDITOR, OLIVEIROS FERRIERA, GAVE US COPIES OF THESE STORIES YESTERDAY. THEY RECOUNTED THE ORIGINS OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN CIRNE LIMA AND DELFIM NETTO AS THE BASIS FOR THE FORMER'S RESIGNATION. ACCORDING TO THE O ESTADO, A SPEECH DELFIM NETTO MADE ON MAY 8 DEALING WITH THE MEAT PROBLEM IN BRAZIL WAS THE "LAST STRAW" FOR CIRNE LIMA. HE HAD LONG BEEN READY TO RESIGN AND THIS INVASION OF HIS JURISDICTION WAS MORE THAN HE COULD TAKE. HE COULD NO LONGER STAND THE PRESSURES APPLIED AGAINST HIM - "THE SILENCE OF THE PRESIDENT WAS ONE FORM OF PRESSURE, THE BLACKOUT IN THE PRESS WAS ANOTHER. BUT WORST OF ALL WAS THE PROVOCATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE FINANCE MINISTE". THE SAME DAY HE ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT TO TENDER HIS RESIGNATION. THIS WAS NOT GRANTED ON GROUNDS THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS TOO BUSY WITH PREPARATIONS FOR HIS PORTUGAL TRIP. SO ON MAY 9, HE DELIVERED HIS LETTER TO A SUBORDINATE OF LEITAO DE ABREU IN THE CIVIL HOUSEHOLD. ACCORDING TO THE ESTADO IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN TO THE PRESIDENT BY LEITAO. ON READING IT THE PRESIDENT BECAME "VERY ANGRY" AND ORDERED THAT THE LETTER "BE RETURNED AND THE MINISTER FIRED". CIRNE LIMA RECEIVED THE LETTER BACK IN THE AFTERNOON AND SENT COPIES TO ALL AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND TO SENATORS AND DEPUTIES. THEN HE TOOK HIS LEAVE. THE ESTADO NOTED THAT MEDICI DID NOT WRITE THE CUSTOMARY PROTOCOL LETTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE MINISTER'S SERVICES TO THE COUNTRY.

4. IN OTHER STORIES, O ESTADO FOCUSED ON CIRNE LIMA'S DEFENSE OF THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS AND THE DISCONTENT HIS RESIGNATION HAD AROUSED IN VARIOUS SECTORS. IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL, IT REPORTED THAT THE LEADER OF THE MDB MADE AN "INFLAMMATORY" SPEECH ATTACKING THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AS PREJUDICIAL TO HIS STATE AND COMMENDING CIRNE LIMA FOR HAVING THE COURAGE TO RESIGN. IT ALSO STATED THAT FARMERS IN BRAZIL'S OTHER LEADING AGRICULTURAL STATES SUPPORTED CIRNE LIMA. OTHERS AGREED WITH CIRNE LIMA THAT THE GOB'S ECONOMIC POLICIES FAVORED THE LARGE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES PARTICULARLY THE MEAT PACKERS, AT THE EXPENSE OF BRAZILIAN PRODUCERS.

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5. ESTADO'S STORY ON CIRNE'S SUCCESSOR, JOSE MOURA, HEADLINED THE FACT THAT HE WAS A JANISTA. HE WAS ACTIVE IN JANIO QUADROS CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT AND HAD BEEN APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF AMAPA BY JANIO.

6. COMMENT: EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ESTADO PLANNED TO GIVE THIS STORY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE MADE CIRNE' S RESIGNATION A MAJOR AND DIVISIVE ISSUE. BUT EVEN WITH CENSORSHIP, IT WILL LIKELY HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS. O ESTADO CONTINUED TODAY TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE BY CALLING ATTENTION TO CENSORSHIP AND THE GOVERNMENT' S SENSITIVITY TO THE ISSUE. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER REACTION IN SAO PAULO AS IT DEVELOPS.
CHAPIN

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